

F A L L 2 0 0 5

the SCHOLAR

HIGHLIGHTING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THETA CHI FRATERNITY



Fall Thoughts...

As your chapter calendar fills up, do not forget to schedule an academic awards dinner or reception. Invite a favorite professor or campus administrator to speak at the event and distribute chapter academic awards. How much funding does your chapter provide the scholarship chair or VP for Scholarship? A base rule of thumb: 5% of the total chapter budget should be allocated for academic expenses and scholarship programming.

Read more ideas for academic programming on page 2.

The Scholar is a quarterly publication highlighting academic excellence and achievement in Theta Chi Fraternity. Send your chapter academic and scholarship news to ihq@thetachi.org

✧ Theta Chi Academic Issues ✧

*By Joshua Wilson '03
Delta Kappa/Ball State*

The effects and strength of our brotherhood should influence all aspects of life, including academic, social, physical, and mental factors. Our Theta Chi brothers can help improve, from healthy eating to going to the gym, or heading to the library for some quality study time. Theta Chi chapters should provide a valuable fraternal network of “brothers helping brothers.”



A support network for academics would be a great service for college students. Oftentimes, members may skip class, ignore homework, miss reading assignments, or fail to ask professors questions in and out of the classroom. Older members should mentor new members by modeling sound practices and provide guidance.

In most cases, members struggling with their grades are not utilizing the best resource: their brothers! One of the easiest methods is pairing up with brothers for the same class and studying together. In fact, if you study for one hour directly after a lecture class, it equates to being in class for three hours. Use your Theta Chi network for academic excellence. If your chapter does not have an academic program, create one!

Brother Wilson was as a Leadership and Education Consultant from 2003-2005. He is now in graduate school at Ball State University and serves as the Live-In Advisor for Delta Kappa chapter.

Strategies to Improve Chapter GPA and Academic Culture

Implement one or more of these ideas each semester to build up a successful academic program. After three or four semesters, your chapter will have quite a program!

1. Set academic goals for your chapter each semester and program for success. The minimum GPA for every chapter should be 2.5 or the all-men's GPA average for your campus.
2. Develop a tutor list within your chapter, comprised of brothers who received a grade of A or B in a particular class. Create another list based on majors for general tutoring options. Solicit feedback from members on courses and instructors
3. Institute point systems to help motivate members. Give points for GPA, campus involvement, holding offices in the chapter, and campus / community involvement. Make GPA a

big part of the formula.

4. Provide the Scholarship Chairman with a budget, so he can fund an incentive program, scholarship banquet, and academic rewards. The general rule of thumb is to start with 5% of the total chapter budget.
5. Sponsor a scholarship banquet once a semester, and invite a faculty member or campus administrator to discuss academic success. Invite par-

or CDs. If you don't have a lot of money, use public recognition combined with \$10 or \$25 gift certificates.

6. If your chapter has a house or residence hall floor, implement quiet hours. For example, 8:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m., Sunday through Friday.
7. Strike a balance between social events, intramural activities, community service, and social events. Chapters that succeed in academics have a

corporation to install an Ethernet port in every room or a wireless network connected to the campus computer backbone. Give members with higher GPA first room picks and parking space priority.

9. Utilize campus speakers and faculty members to create a series of workshops on issues like time management, study skills, resume writing, study abroad, and interviewing skills. Invite another fraternity or sorority to co-sponsor with you. Guest speakers are a great source of information for new members and brothers alike.



ents, potential new members, alumni, and other professors. Recognize members who achieve good grades by awarding them a certificate, scholarship money, iPods, DVDs

healthy balance and do not let the social calendar dominate the chapter culture.

8. If your chapter has a house, work with your University or alumni

10. Match up your members into small teams of four or five men, combining a variety of majors and ages. Encourage them to study and work together throughout the year to achieve the highest possible group GPA. Award prizes and recognition to the top four or five groups.

2004-2005 Theta Chi Fraternity Awards

CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR SCHOLARSHIP

The Chapter Achievement Award for Scholarship Programming is awarded to chapters that emphasize and encourage scholarship and academics through a comprehensive chapter scholarship program.

2005 Recipients:

Epsilon – Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Theta – University of Massachusetts
Phi – North Dakota State University
Alpha Zeta – University of Rochester
Alpha Xi – University of Delaware
Alpha Tau – Ohio University
Alpha Phi – University of Alabama
Gamma Lambda – University of Denver
Gamma Xi – San Jose State University
Gamma Phi – Nebraska Wesleyan University
Delta Iota – Northwestern University
Delta Omega – Ripon College
Epsilon Phi – Central Missouri State University
Zeta Lambda – Westminster College
Zeta Sigma – University of Wisconsin -
River Falls
Theta Kappa – Texas Tech University
Iota Alpha – University of North Carolina -
Wilmington
Iota Beta - Southwest Missouri State University
Iota Gamma – Grand Valley State University

THETA CHI ONLINE

Visit Theta Chi Fraternity online at www.thetachi.org to download a complete listing of all 2004-2005 award recipients.

MOST IMPROVED CHAPTER

The Sidney Ann Gilpin Lewis Memorial Trophy was presented to Theta Chi Fraternity by James G. Lewis, Alpha Xi/Delaware '12, in memory of his daughter. The award, which is made on an annual basis, recognizes the undergraduate chapter that, in the judgement of the Grand Chapter, has made the greatest amount of progress in the preceding academic year.

Recipient: Omega - Pennsylvania State University

Honorable Mention:

Alpha Zeta - University of Rochester
Delta Omega - Ripon College
Zeta Epsilon - California State University -
Long Beach
Zeta Lambda - Westminster College

COLLEY AWARD

The Colley Award is the highest undergraduate award in Theta Chi Fraternity. It is presented each year to an undergraduate member in recognition of distinguished service to Alma Mater, Fraternity, and chapter. The award is named in honor and in memory of Reginald E.F. Colley, Phi/North Dakota State '15, and was presented to the Fraternity by Past National President Frederick W. Ladue. Brother Colley served on the Grand Chapter from 1925 to 1926. The award has been presented since 1929. The recipient of the Colley Award receives a small replica of the Colley Award trophy. The original trophy, which is kept in the International Headquarters, is engraved with the name of the recipient.

2005 Recipient:

Lucas Elgie, Alpha Phi - University of Alabama

1st Runner up:

Matthew Price, Iota Beta - Southwest Missouri State University

2nd Runner up:

Philip Thornton, Gamma Theta - San Diego State University

Identifying Academic Resources



Many campuses have a wide range of academic resources that go untapped by students. A good chapter scholarship chairman or vice president will seek out campus resources and put them to good use within the chapter. Theta Chi Fraternity at the local and national level can provide academic resources and suggestions as well. Consider the following options when assembling your chapter scholarship program:

CAMPUS

- Meet with campus fraternity advisor and ask for suggestions about your institutional resources
- Invite the career services office to present a time management workshop for new members, or an interviewing skills workshop for juniors and seniors
- Schedule a guest speaker from the study abroad office or academic support center
- Promote and attend campus job fairs
- Collect information about campus tutoring or supplemental instruction services
- Encourage members to join academic honor societies and other special interest clubs

FRATERNITY

- Set a progressive chapter GPA goal each semester and minimum GPA standards for individuals
- Establish a chapter academic incentive program
- Publicize and distribute scholarship applications from the Foundation Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity
- Attend national events and learn from other chapters, as well as from workshop faculty
- Contact the International Headquarters for one-on-one advice
- Seek advice from the Leadership and Education Consultant when he visits your chapter

ALUMNI

- Contact local alumni and invite them to be guest speakers at new member workshops or chapter retreats
- Collect business cards from alumni and create a networking binder for members to use when seeking internships or jobs
- Utilize the chapter advisor or faculty advisor for academic matters - if you don't have an advisor, recruit one
- Collaborate with the chapter alumni board to fund academic scholarships
- Schedule a dinner or reception for all graduating seniors and parents - coordinate with the chapter alumni board and conduct the alumni ceremony